

Members

Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson  
Rep. Markt Lytle  
Rep. Richard Mangus  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Sen. Kent Adams  
Sen. Thomas Weatherwax  
Sen. James Lewis  
Sen. Richard Young



# NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

*Legislative Services Agency*  
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789  
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst for the  
Committee  
Steve Wenning, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC 2-5-5-1

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** August 14 & 15, 2003  
**Meeting Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Meeting Place:** Clifty Falls State Park, Clifty Inn  
**Meeting City:** Madison, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 2

**Members Present:** Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson; Rep. Markt Lytle; Rep. Richard Mangus; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Sen. Kent Adams; Sen. James Lewis; Sen. Richard Young.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Thomas Weatherwax.

**Call to Order.** Rep. Bischoff called the meeting to order. After an introduction of the Committee members, Rep. Bischoff asked John Goss, Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to introduce the first topic which pertained to admission fees for historic sites.

**Historic Sites' Admission Fees.** Mr. Goss introduced Laura Minzes for the Division of Historic Sites. Ms. Minzes distributed three handouts. The first provided an overview of each historic site. (See Exhibit 1.) Sites currently operate on donations. The average donation for 2002 was \$0.62. With an admission fee, the DNR hopes to generate an average of \$1.90 per person. Exhibit 2 provides a table of revenue generated by site. Sixty percent of the new revenue would remain at the site. Exhibit 3 outlined admission fees for groups. The Natural Resources Commission has authorized the Division to ask for a \$1 donation per student for school groups.

Rep Bischoff indicated that the Committee would vote on recommending the proposal at the final meeting.

John Molitor, Historic Landmarks Foundation and Indiana Historical Society, supported the proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

**Fish and Wildlife Licenses for Seniors and Youth.** Mr. Goss introduced Glenn Salmon, Director, and Gregg McCollam, Assistant Director, of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Exhibit 4 provides an overview of their presentation. The DNR proposes to institute fish and wildlife licenses and fees for seniors and youth and to end the lifetime license program. Exhibit 5 provides estimates of revenue that could be raised by the proposal.

Dick Mercier, Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable, rose in support of the proposed fee of \$2.75 for seniors.

Rep. Bischoff noted that the DNR could work with Legislative Services Agency to develop drafts of the proposals. The proposals could be presented to the Committee in order to determine the will of the Committee.

**Field Trial Sites for Dogs.** Jack Hyden, President of the Indiana Beagles Association, raised concerns about restrictions placed on owners of sporting dogs. He provided the Committee with a list of areas in the state on which no dog training privileges are allowed as well as a list of areas in which designated locations allow dog training. (See Exhibit 6.) No sites were completely dedicated to sporting dogs. He provided the Committee with a handout that outlined his concerns with the DNR position on the issue. (See Exhibit 7.)

Barry Miller, of the Indiana Field Trials Association, also expressed his concerns about limited opportunities for owners of sporting dogs. His association represents owners of about 20 breeds of dogs that are used in field trials.

In response to Mr. Hyden's concerns, John Davis, Deputy Director, DNR, provided the Committee with correspondence from the federal Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers that indicates that dog training and field trials are not compatible with the general resource objectives of federal property or state property that receives federal funding. (See Exhibit 8.)

Mike Jackson also expressed concerns about available opportunities for sporting dogs and field trials.

Rep. Bischoff mentioned that he had received a request to hear the issue from Sen. Charles Meeks.

A group of parties interested in this issue are to meet with DNR to see if some agreement can be reached. The group will report to the Committee at the October meeting.

**Restoring Habitat by Not Mowing the Right of Ways.** Dick Mercier, Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable, provided the Committee with a proposal that would limit potential wildlife habitat that the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) currently destroys by mowing. (See Exhibit 9.) Mr. Mercier's proposal was based on Michigan statute. (See Exhibit 10.) Phil Ohmit of the Hoosier Conservation Alliance rose in support of the proposal. He noted that sometimes mowing flushes the wildlife onto the highways as opposed to into the fields.

Kathy Noland, INDOT, provided the Committee with a handout that outlined INDOT's policy relative to mowing the rights of way. (See Exhibit 11.) Ms. Noland also handed out materials pertaining to INDOT's environmental progress and roadside programs designed to enhance habitat for native plants using federal funding. (See Exhibits 12 and 13.)

Mr. Mercier indicated that he would work with INDOT on this issue.

**Other Topics.** Rep. Bischoff indicated that the Committee would also consider the topic of the

Native American Indian Commission. Also, Rep. Pond brought to the Committee's attention issues pertaining to easement rights to construct piers in lakes and the placement of boat identification numbers on certain sailboats.

**Establishing a Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.** The Committee considered the issue of establishing an Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Senator David Long had sent to the Committee a memo outlining the issue. (See Exhibit 14.)

**Adjournment.** Rep. Bischoff adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.